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**Algebra I Employment Standards, Rule**

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**The Background:**

Proposed changes to SBE policies and rules will require that all Tennessee students earn four units of mathematics credit for graduation instead of the three units required today. This increase may mean that many of the math teachers presently employed will be called upon to teach upper level mathematics courses thereby creating a shortage in other areas. To address this potential, discussions have occurred between stakeholders for many months about the possibility of allowing those who currently teach middle school math to expand their scope to include Algebra I. Those involved in the discussion have included SBE staff, SDE content specialists, LEA and higher education faculty, and representative from PRAXIS. Consensus has been reached that many of those teachers who currently teach middle school math can, given appropriate training and support, be effective math teachers in the Algebra I classroom as well. Currently, Algebra I is a course that can be taught by those who have a valid Tennessee teaching license and endorsement code 013, 413, or 001. This proposal would add to these endorsements by including the following language:

“HQ - Algebra 1

This course may be taught by a licensed teacher with the appropriate 7-12 math endorsement (013, 413, 001) OR by a teacher with a professional license pursuant to State Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(1)(c), an endorsement to teach through at least grade 8, a passing score on the middle school math PRAXIS, and attendance at the state-approved, five-day training.”

**The Master Plan Connection:**

The amendment of this employment standard is in keeping with the Board’s Master Plan by helping to create effective teachers who can deliver rigorous, relevant curriculum.

**The Recommendation:**

The SBE staff recommends adoption of this item on final reading.

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State Board Rule 0520-1-2-0.3 (3) would be amended as follows (changes noted in italics).

A classroom teacher with an endorsement in elementary education or early childhood education is eligible to teach any subject, including art, music, and physical education, in the grades covered by the endorsement as part of the teacher's regular classroom assignment. *However, a teacher with a professional license pursuant to State Board Rule 0520-2-4-.02 (1)(c), an endorsement to teach through at least grade 8, a passing score on the middle school math PRAXIS, and attendance at state-approved training may teach Algebra I at any grade level.*